



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

## **Zoos Are Getting Out of the Elephant Business**

### **22 zoos have closed or will be closing their elephant exhibits**

#### **Eighteen zoos have closed their exhibits:**

Omaha Zoo, Neb. (2011)  
Central Florida Zoo (2011)  
Brookfield Zoo (2010)  
Lion Country Safari (2010)  
Jackson Zoo, Miss. (2010)  
Philadelphia Zoo (2008)  
Abilene Zoo, Tex. (2007)  
Alaska Zoo (2007)  
Gladys Porter Zoo, Tex. (2006)  
Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo (2005)  
Detroit Zoo (2004)  
San Francisco Zoo (2004)  
Chehaw Wild Animal Park, Ga. (2004)  
Henry Vilas Zoo, Wisc. (2000)  
Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo (1999)  
Mesker Park Zoo, Ind. (1999)  
Frank Buck Zoo Tex. (1998)  
Sacramento Zoo, Calif. (1991)

#### **Four zoos will phase out their exhibits**

Bronx Zoo, NY  
Pt. Defiance Zoo, Wash.  
Santa Barbara Zoo, Calif.  
Toronto Zoo, Ontario, Canada

### **Reasons for closing elephant exhibits**

Lack of adequate space; elephant deaths and health problems related to lack of space; lack of funding for exhibit expansion; and recognition that a traditional zoo cannot meet elephants' needs for vast space for movement and health maintenance, mental stimulation, and healthy social groups. The Bronx Zoo recognized that elephants must be protected in their natural homes, stating it would "rather steer its money toward preserving elephants in the wild in Africa and Asia..."